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28 May 1965 (C)

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Evaluation of FBI Report on Haiti (19 May 1965)

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1. Information very similar to that contained in the FBI memorandum of 19 May 1965 was originally received by the FBI on 27 April. CIA received substantially the same information on 4 May.

[REDACTED]
FBI disseminated its information under the date of 28 April and CIA received a copy of the FBI report. We have reason to believe that another government agency has received the identical information through other channels but probably traceable to the same origin. We suspect, but cannot demonstrate, that the FBI report of 19 May also comes ultimately from the same source. CIA has considerable doubt of the validity of the information and is investigating the possibility that it is a deliberate deception [REDACTED]

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2. The allegation cited in paragraph 1 of the FBI Memorandum that Amtorg is shipping to Cuba via its representative in Haiti is believed to be untrue. Amtorg has no overt representative in Haiti; [REDACTED]

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Furthermore, it is CIA's opinion that Amtorg would not risk PNG action by the United States by using Haiti as a transshipment point between the United States and Cuba when they have other channels for supplying Cuba which involve little risk. We have been unable to substantiate any commercial contact between Haiti and Cuba with the possible exception of some very small scale smuggling which, if it exists at all, is probably carried on by small fishing craft. The only Soviet Bloc representatives in Haiti are the Polish Commercial Attache and his assistant, and there is no evidence that either is a front man for Amtorg. Neither NSA, ONI, nor CIA has any record of a ship by the name of "El Arenal" or anything similar, mentioned in paragraph 7.

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3. With regard to specific items contained in the 19 May report, paragraph 3 states that a coalition Communist party has been formed under the leadership of Herve Boyer. Jules and Paul Blanchet are reported to have been involved in organizing the new party. This appears doubtful. CIA believes, but has never been able to prove conclusively, that Boyer and the Blanchet brothers are members of the Communist Party. It can be said with certainty, however, that these three are anti-US and are Communist sympathizers. If they are hard-core Communists, they have always successfully concealed proof of it and it is most unlikely that either of them would risk becoming exposed at this time by having broad contact with Communist elements in Haiti. As for the meetings themselves, the CIA feels that a meeting of such a size (roughly 40 to 50 persons) could not possibly have taken place in Port-au-Prince clandestinely. The Haitian "grapevine" is too effective an instrument of communication. Furthermore, CIA's French, Italian, and Algerian desks have no knowledge of any Communists from their countries having traveled to Haiti this year.

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4. Concerning paragraphs 4, 5, and 6, the chances that Duvalier would abdicate and leave Haiti voluntarily are very slim; he has repeatedly stated his unwillingness to do this. The remark [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that the government of Haiti would be changed by 2 July could also mean that Duvalier will declare himself Emperor by that date, a move which he may be still considering.

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5. While we would not discount the validity of the entire report merely because it is highly unlikely, there are several considerations involved which lead CIA to believe that the information may have been deliberately given out for the purpose of deception by one or another Haitian political faction.

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[REDACTED] CIA has, therefore, been making every effort to determine if deception was involved and if so, for what purpose.

6. In summary, while some of the items of information mentioned may be based on fact, CIA has not yet been able to verify enough of the report to warrant our placing any confidence in it.

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